

April 9, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

**PUBLIC HEALTH'S REQUEST TO APPOINT A PHYSICIAN MANAGEMENT POSITION
IN THE TOXICS EPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAM - PHYSICIAN PAY PLAN**

Consistent with the August 4, 1998 Board approved policy on management appointments, we received the attached request from Fred Leaf, Chief Operating Officer, Department of Health Services, to appoint Gershon Bergeisen M.D., M.P.H., to the position of Chief Physician I, M.D. in Public Health's Toxics Epidemiology Program at \$10,266.27 per month or \$123,195.24 per year. The requested salary includes placement on M7, Step 6 (\$113,544 per year) of the Management Physician Pay Plan, in accordance with his experience, plus a 5.5 percent annual Board Certification bonus of \$6,244.92, and a 3 percent annual Physician Additional Compensation bonus of \$3,406.32. Additional information and an organization chart are provided as Attachments I-V. The item is fully funded in the Public Health 2001-02 Adopted Budget and is vacant.

Dr. Bergeisen will serve as Director of the Toxics Epidemiology Program, within the Health Assessment and Epidemiology Program. This division is responsible for, among other duties, environmental health surveillance, special investigations and epidemiologic studies, policy development, program planning, technical support, medical consultation to public and private physicians and other health care providers on toxic exposures and associated health risks. The Director will also respond to community concerns on environmental health issues, define environmental health priorities and advise the Director of Public Health. He will serve as lead department liaison with State and federal regulatory agencies on environmental epidemiology and health related issues.

Each Supervisor
April 9, 2002
Page 2

The Department of Health Services indicates that Dr. Bergeisen is uniquely qualified to lead this team based on his vast experience and training as a physician certified in Family Medicine and Preventive Medicine, with further specialization in Occupational Medicine. He has served in the United States Public Health Services as a medical officer and as an epidemiologist with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Although your Board recently approved a reaffirmation and expansion of our current hiring/promotion freeze policy, we recommend approval of Mr. Leaf's request due to the critical need for the Chief Physician I, M.D., item to be filled. This position has responsibility for directing all activities in the Toxics Epidemiology Program, including epidemiologic, medical, other programmatic and fiscal functions. The position requires an individual with advanced training in environmental health and epidemiology, and experience working with State and federal environmental agencies. The individual also has to be able to communicate effectively with policymakers, media and concerned communities regarding environmental health threats.

The requested annual salary of \$123,195.24 is justified by his past salary history, exceptional experience and unique qualifications for this position. Based on the above, we concur with the Department's request to appoint Dr. Bergeisen to the position of Chief Physician I, M.D. at an annual salary of \$123,195.24 effective April 22, 2002.

In accordance with the policy on managerial appointments, unless we hear otherwise from your offices by April 19, 2002, we will notify Mr. Leaf that he is authorized to proceed with the appointment.

Please let me know if you have any concerns about this appointment, or your staff may contact Josie Jaramillo of this office at (213) 974-1274.

DEJ:DIL
JJ:bjs

Attachments

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
 Director of Health Services
 Director of Personnel